

**BOROUGH OF WIND GAP
29 MECHANIC STREET
WIND GAP, PA 18091
863-7288
FAX 863-1011**

The Council meeting of the Borough of Wind Gap on Tuesday, January 18, 2011, was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President, Scott Parsons, at which time he reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded. In attendance were Councilmen: John Maher, Dave Hess, Kerry Gassler, George Hinton, Joe Weaver and Tony Curcio. Also in attendance were Mayor James M. Shoemaker, Borough Solicitor, Ronold J. Karasek and Borough Administrator Louise Firestone.

Council President, Scott Parsons informed those present that Council met in Executive Session this evening from 6:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to discuss personnel issues, but there is nothing to report and no action will be taken at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one appeared before Council at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. EMS – Kerry Gassler reported that the Ambulance Corps responded to 77 calls in the month of December for a total of 689 calls for the year of 2010. They are in the process of hiring a collection agency to recoup money from their subscribers. Highmark/Blue Cross sends a check directly to their customer and the customer is required to forward payment to the Ambulance Corps, but some subscribers have not been forwarding payment to Ambulance Corps. Kerry asked on behalf of the Ambulance Corps for Council to consider offering free rent for this year.

On motion by Dave Hess to waive the rent paid by the Ambulance Corps. for the year 2011 in the amount of \$244.50 per month and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. In favor: T. Curcio, D. Hess, G. Hinton, J. Maher, S. Parsons, J. Weaver. Abstained: K. Gassler. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0-1.

2. Fire Co. – Dave Hess reported that the Fire Company responded to 15 calls in December 2010 for a total of 196 for the year of 2010. The Fire Company elected new officers for this year and they are: Fire Chief Jon Faust, First Lieutenant Sean Shoemaker, Second Lieutenant Brent Shoemaker and President Jeff Yob. The Fire Company purchased a used 2003 Durango, but they do not have all the paperwork to have it titled or insured. That information will be provided to the Borough Office as soon as it is received. Dave asked if the fire hydrant flags have been ordered. Louise stated that they have and should be delivered by the end of the week. Dave stated that the Fire Company had a lengthy discussion regarding the \$25,000 donation that Waste Management has stated will no longer be given to the Fire Company to offset the loans on their truck payments. The Fire Company would like Borough Council to argue on their behalf to have the \$25,000 reinstated. Tony explained that when they met with Waste Management they were informed that if the contract the first thing that would be discussed would be eliminating the free garbage collection. Kerry suggested adjusting the tipping fee contribution made by the Borough to the Fire Company. Kerry asked if there is progress with regard to the Knox Box Ordinance. Ron replied that he is working with Upper Mt. Bethel regarding the same issue and is discussing commercial/industrial issues.

3. Zoning – Tony Curcio reported that the Zoning Hearing Board will meet on February 2, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. to re-open the case with Reimer Brothers regarding their signs.

4. Planning - Scott Parsons reported that the Planning Commission met on January 6, 2011 to discuss RPM's plan to expand their property lines. They are proposing no additional buildings on their property. Scott stated that he thinks that the property will be used for storage units. This plan will be before Borough Council at the February 7, 2011 with the recommendation of the Wind Gap Planning Commission. Ron Karasek added that if there is a violation of the Borough's Zoning Ordinance then the Zoning Officer would have the ability to enforce the ordinance.

5. Municipal Authority – John Maher reported that the Municipal Authority discussed replacing sewer line in F alley and they feel that they do not have to restore the pavement. John has a meeting set up to discuss this issue. Scott asked if the Authority raised sewer rates. John replied that the rates did not increase, although they no longer have a debt payment, the debt service still shows up on the sewer bill, but those additional funds are intended for plant expansion and repairs.

At this time, Scott Parsons reported that the Zoning Hearing Board member Mark Sharp's term has expired and he has not return a letter of interest to remain on the board.

On motion by Scott Parsons to appoint Robert Matlock to the Wind Gap Zoning Hearing Board to fill the vacancy with a term expiring December 31, 2013 and seconded by Dave Hess. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by John Maher to re-appoint Russell Dieter to the Wind Gap Municipal Authority with a term expiring December 31, 2015 and seconded by Kerry Gassler. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Tony Curcio to re-appoint Lindy Paynter and Heather Craig to the Wind Gap Planning Commission with terms expiring December 31, 2014 and seconded by John Maher. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Streets – George Hinton reported that the street workers have been putting a lot of overtime keeping the streets clean. He added that there have been no major problems or complaints with snow removal. He has set up a meeting on January 27, 2011 with the street committee (John Maher and Dave Hess) to discuss overlaying some streets this year. Dave Hess added that the last two storms the snow removal has been good.

7. Police – Mayor Shoemaker reported that the Police Department responded to 111 calls for the month of December, 5 animal complaints, 9 motor vehicle accidents and issued 12 traffic citations. Officer Flad was involved in a traffic accident with the Ford SUV. Kerry stated that the vehicle took a good shot, because he saw the accident. Officer Flad was turning into Turkey Hill and guy just hit him, no brakes or anything. Kerry picked up the bumper and asked Officer Flad if he was alright. He asked what the policy is when a police vehicle is involved in an accident. Chief Armitage stated that the State Police must investigate, but they were busy with weather related accidents and a bank robbery so Pen Argyl Police responded just to get insurance information. The parts have been ordered to repair the SUV. The Civil Service Commission will meet before the next meeting.

8. Park – Joe Weaver reported that Matthew Dietz has expressed an interest in continuing to serve on the Wind Gap Park Board.

On motion by Joe Weaver to appoint Matthew Dietz to the Park Board with a term expiring December 31, 2014 and seconded by Kerry Gassler. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe reported that the Park Board met on January 11, 2011 and started planning the Summer Sounds Concert Series. They intend to work again with Pen Argyl Borough to split the cost of advertising. The Board discussed getting more information from Rettew regarding the Park Master Plan or seek other professional services so that the plan gets completed.

9. 911 – Tony Curcio had nothing to report.

10. Tipping Fees - Tony Curcio reported that the tipping fee committee (Tony, George, Joe) met to discuss reallocating the tipping fees.

On motion by Tony Curcio to eliminate the condemnation allocation and reallocate the following: General Fund from 9% to 12%, Street from 50% to 55%, Park remains same, Building remains same, Public Safety from 4% to 5% for Fire Company, Ambulance Corps remains the same, Administration remains same, Blue Mountain Community Library from 1% to 2% and seconded by Joe Weaver. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Tony Curcio to eliminate the remaining condemnation tipping fee balance in Capital Reserve in the amount of \$2,901.92 by paying the Fire Company and seconded by Dave Hess. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Property Maintenance Code – Scott Parsons reported that the committee met last week and Brian Pysher was in the process of setting up a meeting with the Bangor Borough Code Official.

12. Building Finance Committee – Scott Parsons stated that a meeting with Mike Goffredo should be scheduled once he returns from Florida.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Shoemaker reported that the Slate Belt COG will meet on January 26, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Washington Elementary School. They will be electing officers and discussing plans for this year. The Mayor was contacted by a concerned citizen regarding the lack of stop signs in the new development off of South Broadway on First Street. Council discussed contacting the developer to install the required stop signs and if they are not installed whether the Borough should install them from a safety and liability standpoint even though the street has not been turned over to the Borough and ordained.

On motion by George Hinton to direct Ron Karasek to send a letter to Gibraltar Development instructing them to install stop signs on First Street and if they are not the Borough will install immediately and bill them the cost and seconded by Kerry Gassler. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

John Maher reported that he has investigated adding Derek Holland's name to the war bench at the monument. It would be done during a ceremony conducted by the American Legion. He will report further when more information is available.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business before Council at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Kerry Gassler asked if there was an update on the firehouse floor. George and Brian will meet next week to discuss this issue.
2. Scott Parsons reported that the Zoning Ordinance amendment must be advertised and the neighbors notified. He spoke to Darlene about doing this work per the tax records.
3. John Maher asked if Council had a chance to review the Senate Bill related to blighted properties and the ability of the Borough to withhold issuing permits. Ron Karasek stated that he is investigating this issue for Upper Mount Bethel and could do the work and report to both municipalities and split the bill. Council was in agreement.

On motion by Tony Curcio to adjourn the meeting of January 18, 2011 and seconded by John Maher. Council agreed unanimously.

The meeting of January 18, 2011 adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Louise Firestone, Borough Administrator